

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01848 301926Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1848

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, OCON, CU, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MORSE ADVISED AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND MINISTER KITCHEN HE WAS MEETING AFTERNOON APRIL 29 WITH CUBAN AMBASSADOR WHO WAS TO CONFIRM TO HIM THAT CUBA WOULD NOT PRESS CAMPAIGN TO HAVE JUNE MEETING OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN HAVANA. WAY IS THUS CLEAR FOR MEETING IN GENEVA IN LINE WITH U.S. OBJECTIVES. MORSE SAID HE HOPED TO HAVE MEETING BEGIN JUNE 14 WITH VIEW TO FINISHING IN TIME TO ALLOW ECOSOC SESSION IN ABIDJAN TO GET UNDERWAY JUNE 30.

2. MORSE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, WHILE THINGS WERE NOW ON THE TRACK WITH RESPECT TO JUNE MEETING, HE THOUGHT U.S. WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT JANUARY MEETING GOVERNING COUNCIL IN HAVANA. GROUP OF SEVENTY-SEVEN HAS NOW DECIDED TO SUPPORT CUBA'S OFFER FOR HAVANA MEETING IN JANUARY AND IN MORSE'S OPINION THERE WILL BE NO HOPE OF STOPPING IT SINCE CUBA WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE THE VOTES. AS THE MAN WHO THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY WITH CUBAN PERMREP IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR HEADING OFF HAVANA MEETING IN JUNE, IT SEEMED CLEAR MORSE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO TRY TO AVERT JANUARY MEETING IN HAVANA.

3. BENNETT SUGGESTED TO MORSE THAT A JANUARY MEETING
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01848 301926Z

IN HAVANA WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME EVER FOR THE JANUARY

MEETING TO BE HELD AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS, AND MORSE ADMITTED THIS WOULD BE SO. WE OURSELVES DO NOT TAKE SO CLOSED A VIEW AS REGARDS PROSPECTS. CUBANS WOULD HAVE A NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME. KITCHEN HAS BEEN POINTING OUT TO SELECTED DELEGATES THAT A JANUARY MEETING IN HAVANA WOULD CAUSE US MANY OF THE SAME PROBLEMS AS THE JUNE PROPOSAL: SOME LATIN AMERICANS, AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF SEVENTY-SEVEN, AND OF COURSE EUROPEANS, UNDERSTAND THE COMPLICATIONS AND ARE TAKING POSITION THAT VENUE OF JANUARY MEETING WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED AT JUNE GOVERNING COUNCIL IN GENEVA. IT WOULD BE AN UPHILL FIGHT, TO BE SURE, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION WE SHALL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE PROBLEM BEFORE US. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE HAVE DUTCH PRESIDENT OF GOVERNING COUNCIL WHO WILL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN FUTURE HANDLING OF ISSUE. IF DEPARTMENT HAS STRONG FEELING ABOUT A JANUARY MEETING IN HAVANA, THEN CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO HAVING DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON DISCUSS MATTER FRANKLY WITH DUTCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER PRONK AT THEIR FORTHCOMING BILATERAL WITH VIEW TO INFLUENCING DUTCH ATTITUDE.
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